



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 6, 2019

Tribal Nations Conference

Thank you for taking part in the State of California's first-ever Tribal Nations Conference.

Gatherings like this one remind us of what makes our state so strong. In California, we do not just tolerate diversity, we celebrate it. And there is so much to celebrate in California's tribal nations.

California's Native people have called this land home since time immemorial and have survived and thrived despite centuries of violence and oppression. Today, you are working to confront some of the most pressing challenges for all Californians, by leading our state in renewable energy, disaster and emergency response, health care, natural resource management and job creation, and so much more.

Since I took office, I have sought to change the paradigm for State engagement with Tribes – by taking the long overdue step of apologizing for the atrocities committed against your peoples and by establishing a truth and healing council to ensure we are accounting for the whole history of California. We have taken policy, legislative and budget steps – authorizing an additional \$2 million for Census outreach to ensure every Native American in California counts, signing into law bills that ensure Tribes can become eligible applicants to participate in affordable housing programs, more easily access ICWA proceedings in state court and create culturally-informed youth diversion programs, and more equitably engage with the University of California on repatriation policies.

Make no mistake, we have more work to do to ensure justice and equality for Native people in our state – in housing, in education, in the workplace, in voting and in child welfare. I believe that we can most effectively address these challenges through mutual partnership and a strong sovereign-to-sovereign relationship.

We hope that this conference will serve to bolster that relationship by providing an annual opportunity to gather to identify priorities, navigate areas of disagreement and find opportunities for collaboration.

Thank you once again for bringing your ideas and perspectives to this conference.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of the State of California